

Growing pains

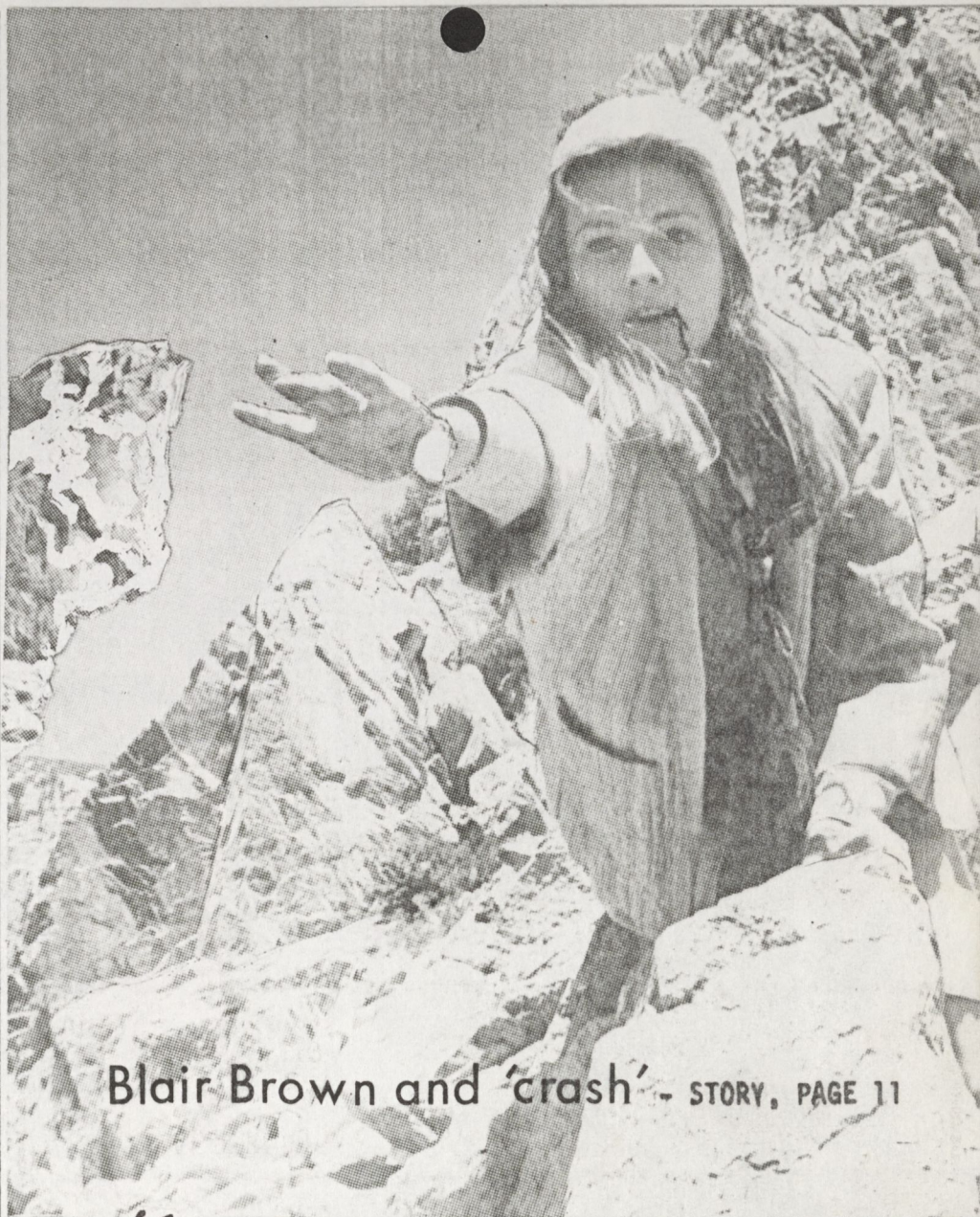
SEVERAL FACTIONS GROPE FOR DIRECTION AS BISHOP BEGINS TO DEAL WITH URBAN PROBLEMS

OLD LIFESTYLES AND EXPECTATIONS at Bishop appear now to be on a collision course with some rapidly developing ideas - previously rejected with a great deal of angry finality - about "community growth." Headed for conflict are the old-line ultra-conservative establishmentarians, such as the Property Owners Association, and the supporters of plans that would alter forever the present direction of such broad matters as housing, traffic routes and even the way that Bishop, a tourist-oriented town, is promoted.

Presently in conflict are the association members and a number of people on the Bishop Plan Advisory Committee. The latter group, leaning on a census survey, claims that most Inyo residents want a "slow, controlled growth." The conservatives on the other hand are attempting to prove with a survey of their own that the town wants little expansion and very few if any changes in its present status quo.

Aside from, and even in spite of, the two polarities, is the fact of growth itself. Like it or not, it has already happened - and there is every indication it is going to happen some more - perhaps a great deal more as urban-weary southlanders find opportunities to "move into the mountains." For years, the Inyo Planning Department has been more-or-less at work trying to formulate a "Bishop Plan" that will help in what is already becoming a series of purely "urban" problems. The two opposing camps recently came together in a public forum that raised as many questions as it provided

(See BISHOP GROWTH on Page 2)



Blair Brown and 'crash' - STORY, PAGE 11

The INYO COUNTY NEWS-LETTER

A NEWS ALTERNATIVE - EASTERN SIERRA NEWS SERVICE

Compiled by John Heston and Benett Kessler

GENERAL CIRCULATION
Published weekly

FOTOPAGE:
The "Duke"

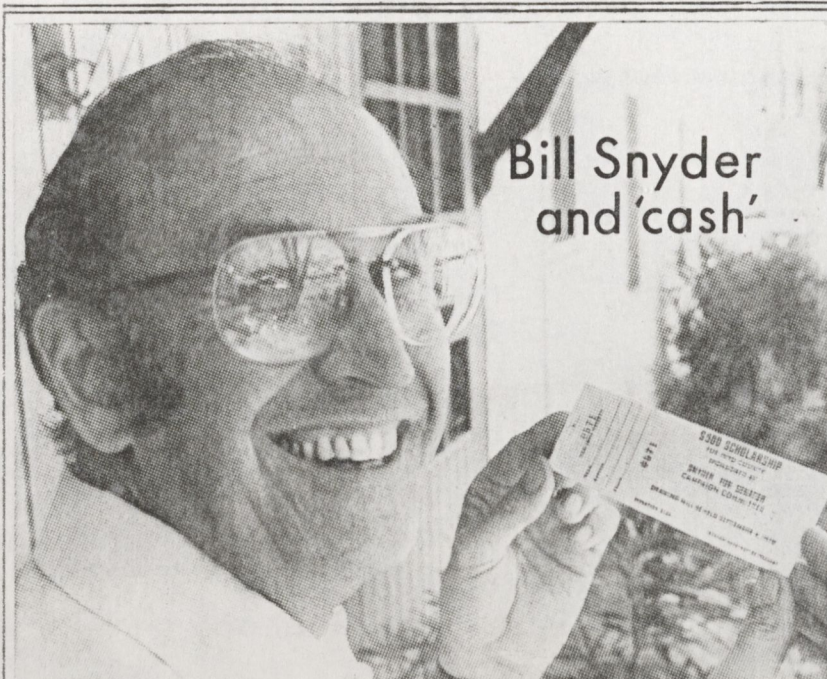
Week of
Aug. 21, 1978

SAFeway STRIKE

News Briefs

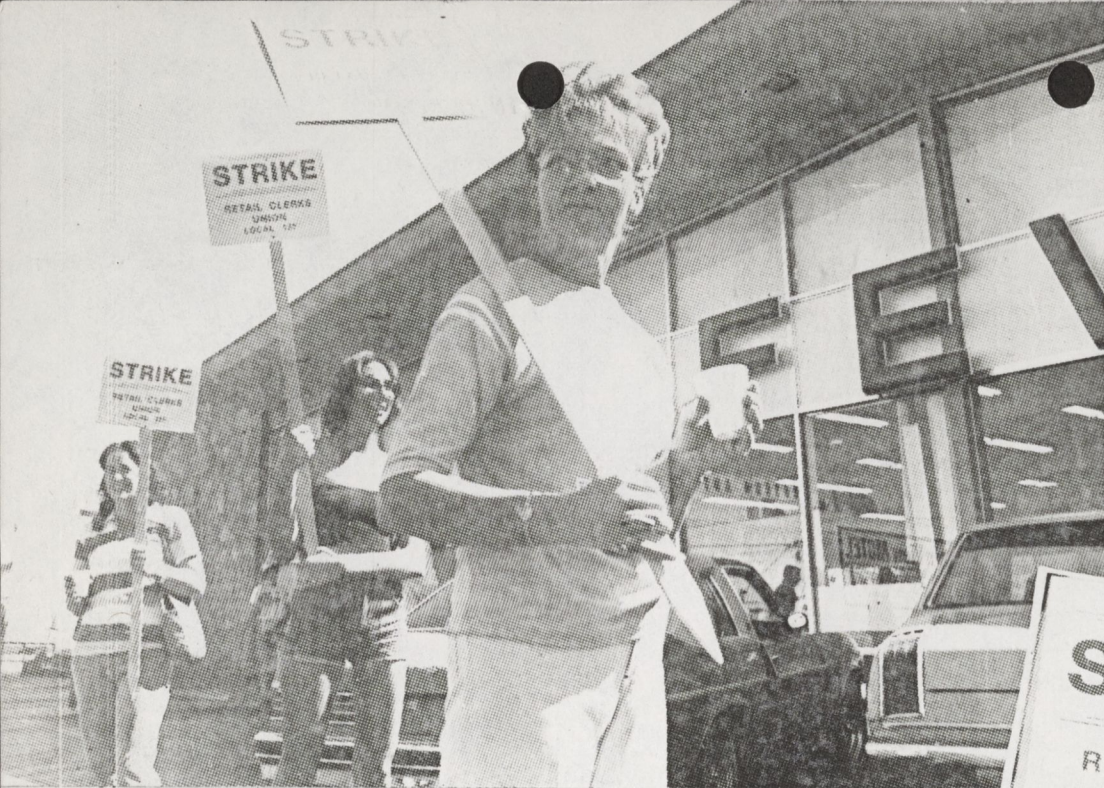
STRIKERS WANT "TWO-IN-A-ROW"; BLM WANTS THE BILLBOARDS "OUT"; GLIDDEN WANTS A THREE-WAY RACE; AND SNYDER WANTS DOLLARS

MORE THAN MONEY IT SEEMS is at issue in the retail clerks union strike that has tied up Bishop's two Safeway outlets. Employees at Bishop and elsewhere (about 50,000 are on strike in California) want what they call "rights on the job": seniority considerations and "two days off in-a-row." Meanwhile, Safeway management here is taking over the job of driving trucks across the picket lines; Teamsters union drivers are reluctant to go against another union walk-out. At one Safeway store, a new manager was imported after the regular manager - himself a union member - walked out with the others. The strikers, hoping to cripple business until their demands are met, have now turned to picketing warehouses and loading docks to prevent truck loading. Is the grocery business at Bishop hurt- (See NEWS BRIEFS, P 10)



Bill Snyder and 'cash'

Candidate tries a new fund-raiser - See NEWS BRIEFS

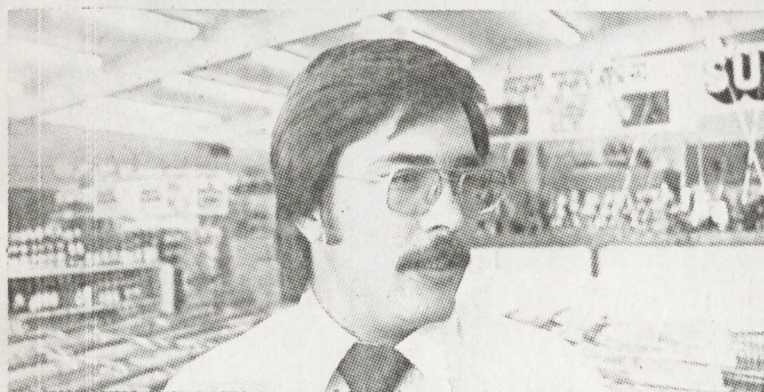


The Strike

THE RETAIL CLERKS UNION INYO MEMBERS JOIN WITH THOUSANDS OF OTHERS IN CALIFORNIA TO STRIKE TWO BISHOP SAFEWAY STORES

As the new week opened, negotiators at Los Angeles were still haggling over contract terms. Bishop's Safeway outlets were hiring workers to fill in for regular workers on a picket line. Safeway sales were down as 110 workers

struck in Inyo and Mono.



Pickets Pepper Neely, Holly Glover and Dona Rossi at Bishop Safeway store. Steve Walker, an imported manager. June McDonald, union representative. And Sympathizer Morgan Mead, 4.

Page 2

INYO COUNTY NEWS-LETTER

Aug. 21, 1978

BISHOP GROWTH, Continued

answers. Lacking in the confrontation was a clear definition of the census' (the official county one) word "growth." A member of the advisory committee, Cindy O'Connor, said she thinks the committee has the same goal as the property owners' group - "controlled growth."

Well, maybe. The problem seems to lie in their widely-varying views on what that means. "I don't think we can have 'no-growth' at all," says O'Connor, "but 'slow controlled growth' means different things to different people."

To people like Francis Grinnan, secretary of the property owners association, for instance. It means, she thinks, that "the majority of people in Bishop" simply want no growth at all.

"We moved here because it is a quiet little place, and we want to keep it that way." As to others who, like Grinnan, would also like to move here, she did not say - apparently another manifestation of the "elitest" syndrome: We moved in, now close the gate.

But the issue is less simple than that, although such illogic permeates the entire question on both sides. Grinnan

said her group is "fighting for what the property owners want; that she and other members would like to see the issue on a ballot - before it is too late and the "Bishop Plan" is concretized into law.

Grinnan said she thinks the "radical" issue of growth should go to the electorate for several reasons: "because it would mean more schools, more police, and taxes would go sky high." She also fears the possibility of urban smog. "If there is," avows Grinnan, "then we will move."

What many conservative elements fear, although they say so only privately, is the possibility of the appearance of typical urban

(See BISHOP GROWTH, Page 4)



CALL IT CHARISMA, OR CHARACTER, whatever you will, he's got it heaping handfuls, whether you dig his style, or his views, or not. I'm not a John Wayne "fan," but I can see why he's got millions of them. He's a "presence" wherever he walks, talks, drinks or eats; people hang on his every word; he puts out a magnetic vibe. In the Hollywood galaxy he's one of the few "stars" left. Even at 71, he catches the ladies' eyes and they flock to bask in his unique light. Wayne's visit here was a thrill for a lot of people - self included. The strength you see on the screen is really there; what you see is what he is. This is the generation of the anti-hero in which the loser is perversely exalted; in the fad of "hip" thinking, Wayne sometimes seems corny on the screen, but it sure beats what they're offering nowadays.



BENETT KESSLER

ELISIE AYERS OVER AT LONE PINE carries her Wayne hero-worship even farther: "I'm just sick," she mourned, "I'm all sold out of our 'God Bless John Wayne' bumper stickers."

WORD HAS IT THAT WALT ROLLINS, a former supervisor, was stricken with a ruptured ulcer while vacationing in Washington. Our source says he was in critical condition but following surgery he's now recovering and is due home soon.

INCREASING MORALE PROBLEMS AT THE COURTHOUSE. Recent firings (There have been more than a few) and the circumstances surrounding the firings are said to have put a number of employees on edge. Looks like they're still passing the buck and the blame to the lower ranks instead of cleaning house nearer the top.

VERY PLEASANT PEOPLE DEPT: Bishop's Alan Wallace, the Kittle Printing man. Alan's had his problems lately; he was tooling around town on his motorbike recently and entered an intersection at the same time a car did; he wasn't hurt too badly, but had to cancel a planned trip to the city. He'll recover.

THE "CALIFORNIA DESERT AREA INVENTORY" is seen by a lot of local mine owners as just another bureaucratic euphemism for federal rip-off crew. The miners think that the hundred-or-so BLM types who've moved into town (and taken over an entire motel) are here to look through the fine print of a lot of claims hoping to find errors that will enable them to take over the claims. The acting director of BLM, Les Monroe, was asked about it and his reply - also couched in bureaucratese was not too reassuring: He said the big crowd of BLM people is "surveying" California land to develop "land policy management." There are a lot of people out in these parts who translate that in simpler English: "Claim-jumping."

THE MINERS, MEANWHILE, have long since been notified that they'll have to register their claims with BLM by October of 1979; they resent it, but it's the law.

MARRIED: Former District Attorney Frank Fowles and long-time fiancée Karen Johnson. The knot was tied Aug. 5.

ALSO MARRIED: Melody Phillips, daughter of Curtis Phillips, the founder (now retired) of the Bishop camera house that bears his name, to Philip Blake, at Mammoth's Twin Lakes Chapel, Aug. 19. The wedding photographer: Russ Adams of Phillips Camera House, wouldn't ya know...

ADD VPP DEPT: BOB AND BONNIE ALLEN. We haven't seen them for awhile - but we know they're out there somewhere...

LOOK FOR A MERGER that might put as much as a million dollars into the old (but, like John Wayne, still vital) Rex Montis mine up on Kearsarge Mountain. In the past three years, workers have drilled an 800-foot tunnel on the property, and our source says it looks like the assays may be running "four to six ounces per ton of gold." If you've been watching the gold market, that means a lot of bucks. A company may move in on a partnership basis with an option to buy the whole works. If meaningful production should get underway (maybe with the use of helicopters to lift out ore), it could mean a boost to county economy.

AS THE DOLLAR DROPS, gold goes up. It's been above \$200 for some time now and it looks like it will go higher.

NEW KINKY FAD IN ENGLAND: CHASTITY BELTS. At least two small firms are hand-forging them from iron near London - replicas of the 13th century models. At least one couple have their own cottage industry near Sheffield; they've been making - and selling - them for years. Well, boys, off to the Crusades, I say; Depart unconcerned, and don't lose any keys.

A READER, BISHOP'S 'AIM MORHARDT, shares with us an article on Palm Springs' burgeoning growth. The popular retreat there may soon become a paradise lost: increased traffic, pollution in the air and on the ground, and all the ills accompanying urban sprawl. The people there recently rejected a building moratorium. It may be the polarities in the issue of "growth" are themselves the problem. For Inyo County there must be something between "no growth" and "uncontrolled growth." Some of the local views are aired in a story elsewhere in this edition of the N-L.

ADD TO THE VPP LIST, BY POPULAR DEMAND: We haven't met him, or even been able to reach him via phone, but people are talking about another Bishop "go-getter" and linking him with "real service" and friendliness: John Parkhurst, the office supplies man.

OFFICE ROMANCES: If you want to find out if there is one, or wish to verify one, check the vacation schedule to find out who takes two weeks at the same time, and who's out of town. Some interesting combinations turn up that way...if you've nothing better to do.

AND MAY THE NEWS IN YOUR DAY BE GOOD NEWS...every day.

Sincerely,

BK

75 mi.

SWANMOTH LAKES VILLAGE



"If at first you don't succeed...."

An earlier attempt, in July, to burn down the "Andersen's Pea Soup" billboard north of Independence had failed; a motorist saw the flames, called firemen. But last week, the arsonist tried again and succeeded, leaving the structure in ashes. Vandalism and burglary have recently plagued the Indian tribe that owns the billboard site.

BISHOP GROWTH, Continued

problems, crowding, crime, and, still unspoken but strongly felt, the arrival of other ethnic groups, and a proliferation of hard-working competitors. Not only competitors for the business establishment, but also for Inyo's limited living space.

Last week, after much of the argument had made the usual route through the business houses of downtown and the affluent homes of Bishop's west side, O'Connor noted, accurately enough, that "There is just so much land, and property values will not go down. Their fears may not be warranted - and we're not talking about much change - about two thousand people!"

Indeed, it would appear that if Bishop follows the usual rule, situated as it is in a geographically desirable area, property values may well go up, thanks to increasing demand and diminishing living space.

Grinnan says the recent survey of the association - sent to about 2000 Bishop area residents - 66% of 521 replies said "yes" to an ordinance that would limit growth. There was, however, considerable talk over the survey itself concerning the wording of the questions which in the minds of many were "loaded" or phrased in such a way as to bring about a desired answer. O'Connor called the questions "leading," and to that, a number of recipients would quickly agree.

"We certainly didn't do anything (like that) intentionally," argues Grinnan. "We tried our best to be unbiased."

But much of the real problem lies with a fact of available space - a matter which may make many "growth" questions irrelevant. "It's frightening," said Grinnan, "to think that there are only 55 more acres to be built on in the city of Bishop; the rest is either already approved for development or in the process of approval. We don't have controlled growth...and we hope to stop it in the outlying areas for open space."

And on this line the property owners
(BISHOP GROWTH, Continued, P12)

NOTE TO SUBSCRIBERS -

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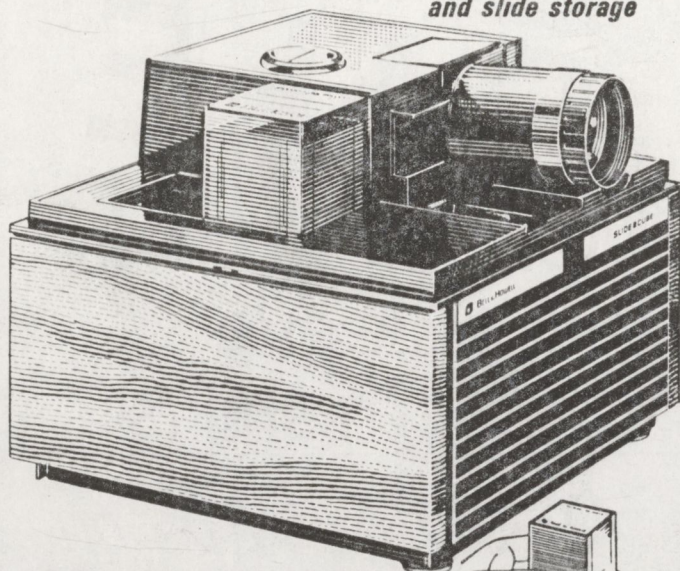
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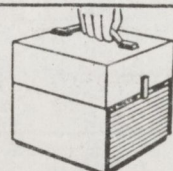
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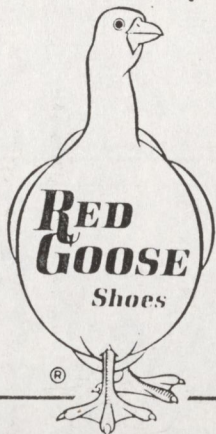
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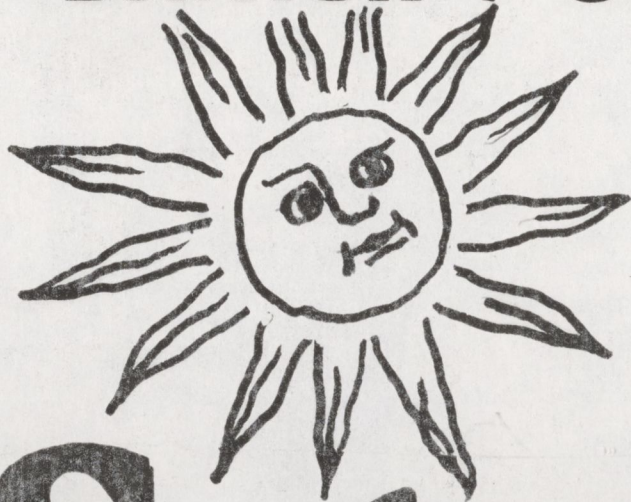
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The "Duke"

From the hour he flew in to Lone Pine's airport, the crowds began to gather at restaurants near the Dow Villa. They wanted to see their hero of many years, John "Duke" Wayne. Obliging and patiently, he signed autographs, posed for pictures and shook hands - except on the set location in the Alabama Hills. But even there he afforded friends and reporters time to get



The Alabama Hills dust, wind and sun took their toll; The actor paused for a swig from a bottle of "Poland water," a current Hollywood favorite, and posed for pictures for the local press. On hand was another old-timer, Chalfant Press' Ed Rosendorf (above right) who braved the heat.



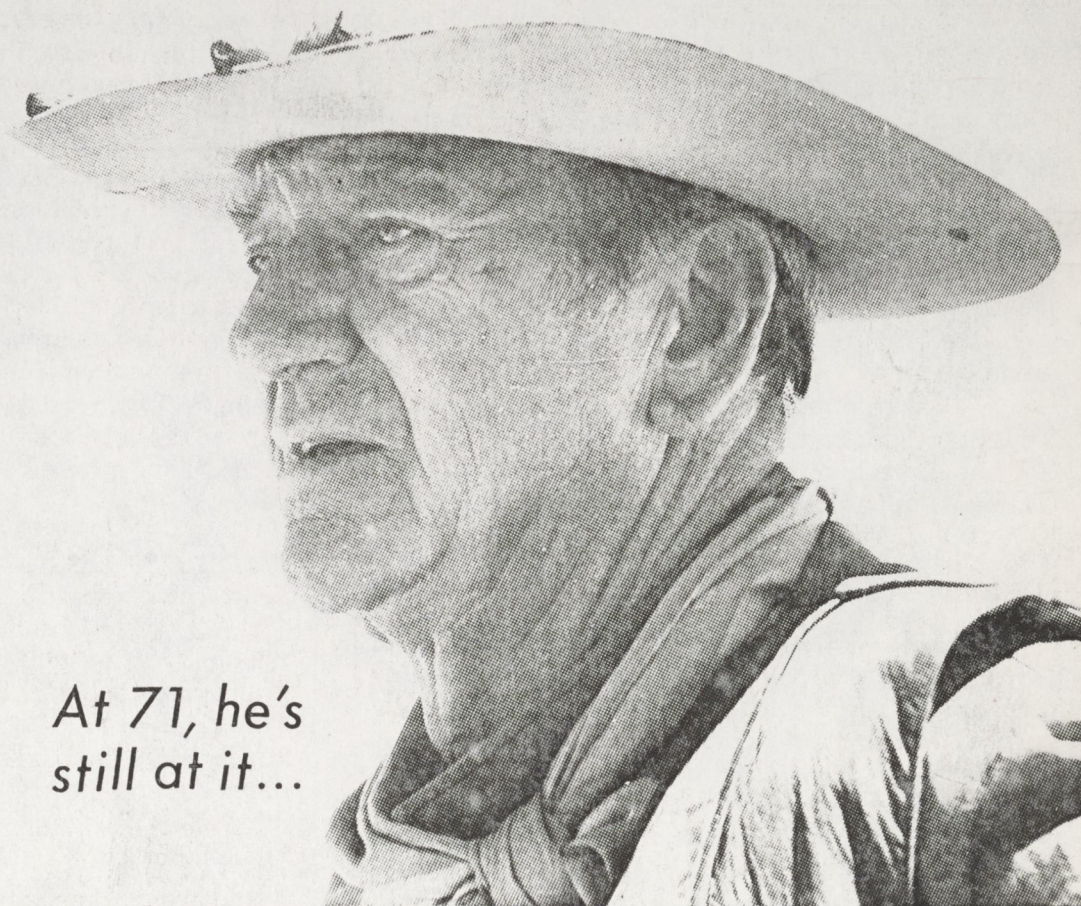
A tight location-security was maintained by several Inyo deputies, among them Clyde George. Wayne posed for a picture with George, thanked him for his efforts. At left: Bruce Morgan, Inyo's "film liaison" man to Hollywood.

was here...

insights into the long career that has made him a movie "great." This was his first work "on location" since he underwent surgery for a heart condition some weeks ago. Wayne's health is still very much in question; on the set he complained of difficulty in breathing, and he worried over a recurring nosebleed. He was reluctant at first to sign for the series of "Great Western Savings" television commercials, but once committed he went into them as he would for a major Hollywood production.

(Photos: Heston, Kessler)

At 71, he's still at it...

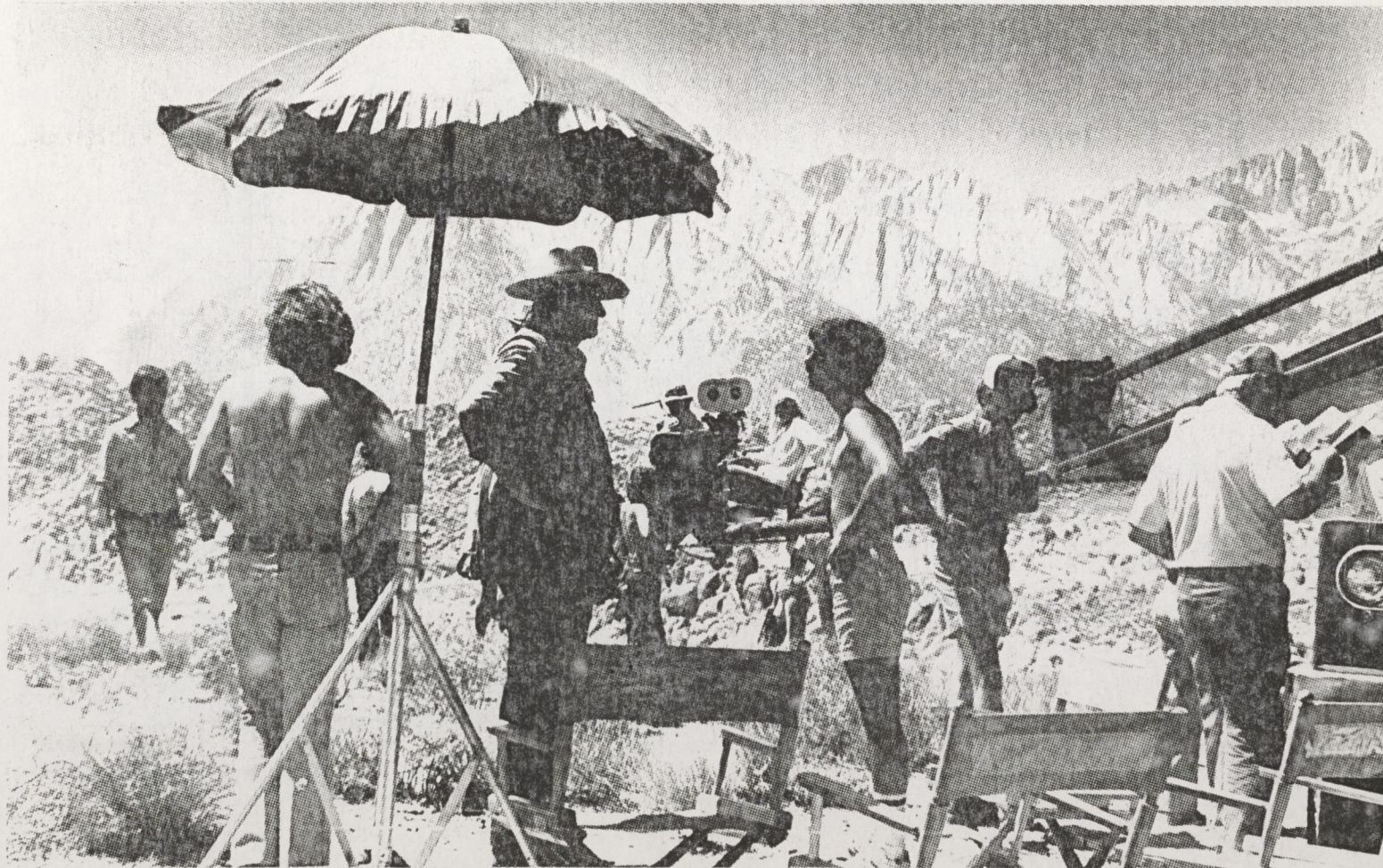


NEWS-LETTER'S VIEWFINDER: VALLEY FOTOPAGE

Aug. 21, 1978

Page 9

The actor granted a rare radio interview to KIOQ's Benett Kessler. "I guess I made a hundred movies up here," he said, " - a lot of them before you were born." Wayne's film crew for the "Great Western" series numbered nearly 40, a larger crew than those used for many feature films.



NEWS-LETTER welcomes letters and comment relevant to public issues. The editors will publish those considered timely and with viewpoints concisely stated. Most likely

to be published are those of 200 words or less. Letters or statements should be addressed to PO Box 531, Independence 93526. The editors remind their readers that publication of a letter does not in any way imply that the editors agree with its view.

PAUL PAYNE, ANYMOUSE, REPORTERS' QUIRKS AND WAS WELLINGTON THE MORAL VICTOR?

Dear Miz Kessler:

Paul Payne's letter to you, explaining that he was not a newspaperman or reporter, and that he is a plumber by trade, was really unnecessary.

Most people realized that Paul is a "plumber" when they saw his minority report on the Grand Jury. That realization was confirmed further when they read his letter.

- Sincerely,
ANYMOUSE
Reno

(Editor's note: "ANYMOUSE," who hides behind his/her anonymity, and who presumes to speak for "most people," should be advised about newspapermen and also newspaperman economics: in the first case, news-men should never be measured by their peculiar quirks and attitudes. (We knew a very good one, for instance, who could never quite resolve himself to accept Wellington's victory at Waterloo and kept making reference to Buonaparte's virtues in day-to-day reports as he covered the Dallas Police Department - "...the murderer, acting like Wellington, was captured by the shrewd, Napoleon-like insights of Detective Jones..." etc. With a little editing, he came up very well.) In the second matter, that of newspapermen-economics, it must be understood that even very good reporters often must turn to good, high-paying status jobs - like plumbing, hair-pin bending, or putty-knife manufacturing - in order to make ends meet. With the possible exceptions of Walter Cronkite and Bahwa Wa-wa, we're all notoriously underpaid and unappreciated. And another thing: What's all this Reno malarkey? We don't have any subscribers in Reno!)

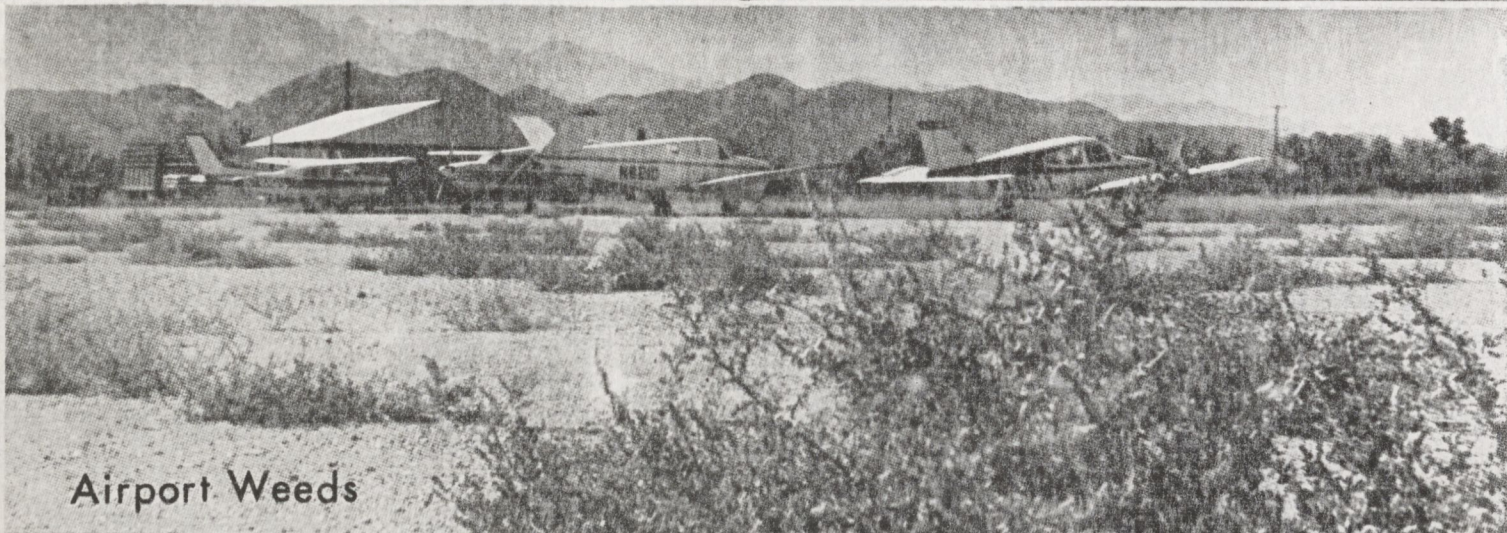
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NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

ing? It depends on who you believe, the strikers or management. Management in Inyo and Mono claims that sales are down about 10%. The pickets say "We've sent a lot of people away. The customers know us; we're friends." Union Representative June McDonald of Bishop's downtown Safeway said "We'd like the customers to honor the picket line. We hope it doesn't last long." For photos of Bishop's strike, see Page 2.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT ILLEGAL BILLBOARDS? Even as arsonists were burning down clearly legal ones, (P 4), the county's administration was worrying over others that should have come down following passage of the 1970 highway beautification act. Caltrans, too, would like to remove them, and one county spokesman said the highway department has already purchased some of the offending signs for removal. But Caltrans wanted to clear things with a local ordinance passed by the county before taking action. The Inyo Planning Commission recommends revocation of the county ordinance to clear the way for Caltrans to go to work. What the 1970 law failed to do was take into consideration hosts of unsightly power poles that block or mar scenic areas; as one annoyed observer put it: "The utility lobbies were stronger than the outdoor advertising lobby." One supervisor is against-changing the ordinance; Johnny Johnson says there is an inequity in present billboard owners being paid for removing their signs while many others in earlier years were not paid.

SUPERVISORIAL CANDIDATE ROGER GLIDDEN has appealed a court ruling that broke an election tie between him and another candidate, Moe Jacobson (in Jacobson's favor). Asked last week why he was appealing the ruling, he took a what-have-I-got-to-lose position. "I didn't want to take this to court in the first place. I wanted a recount. It's a frustrating election." (NEWS BRIEFS Continued, P 13)

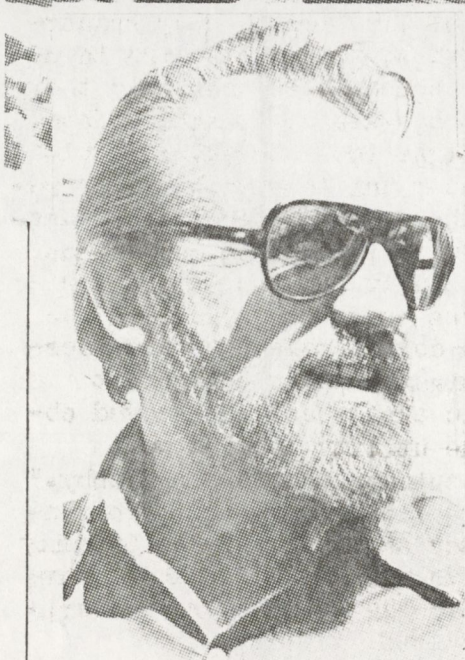


Airport Weeds

Spring rains brought an abundance of weeds pushing through the blacktop tarmac at Lone Pine Airport. The county had an agreement with the late Bob White, for years the airport manager, that kept growth in check. Public Works Director Bob Fisher said he'd had no "open complaints," but that he would "check it out with Mrs. White." A county work crew "had done some work" there. Users are fearful that the weeds may weaken the pavement near parking area.



AUTHOR ELDER: "Survived"



PRODUCER NODELLA: Snubbed

Lauren Elder: A movie and a controversy

AN NBC PRODUCTION COMPANY STARTS FILMING THE ELDER PLANE CRASH STORY, BUT GETS A SNUB FROM MOTEL OWNERS

Seldom if ever do Inyo's sometimes hard-pressed motel operators find themselves in a position to turn down hard cash, especially cash enhanced by the glamour of Hollywood. But it happened in Independence when a production company arrived here to begin filming the story of a Sierra plane crash, "And I Alone Survived." The owners of two Independence motels, the Circle V, and Ray's Den Motel, are Jim Comontofski and G.A. and Claudine Logsdon. Comontofski and the Logsdons were approached by Producer Burt Nodella and were offered contracts for the use of their motels as authentic location sites. But Nodella got turn-downs from the owners who were incensed by the account of Elder's

attempts to get rooms at the motels after she staggered into Independence following the now-famous crash in the mountains; the book strongly suggested that they failed to help her get medical treatment. The owners say Elder asked only for "a room" and that she had been unclear about her situation. However, Logsdon did sense that "something was wrong" and in fact called the sheriff's office as Elder "staggered down the middle of the street."

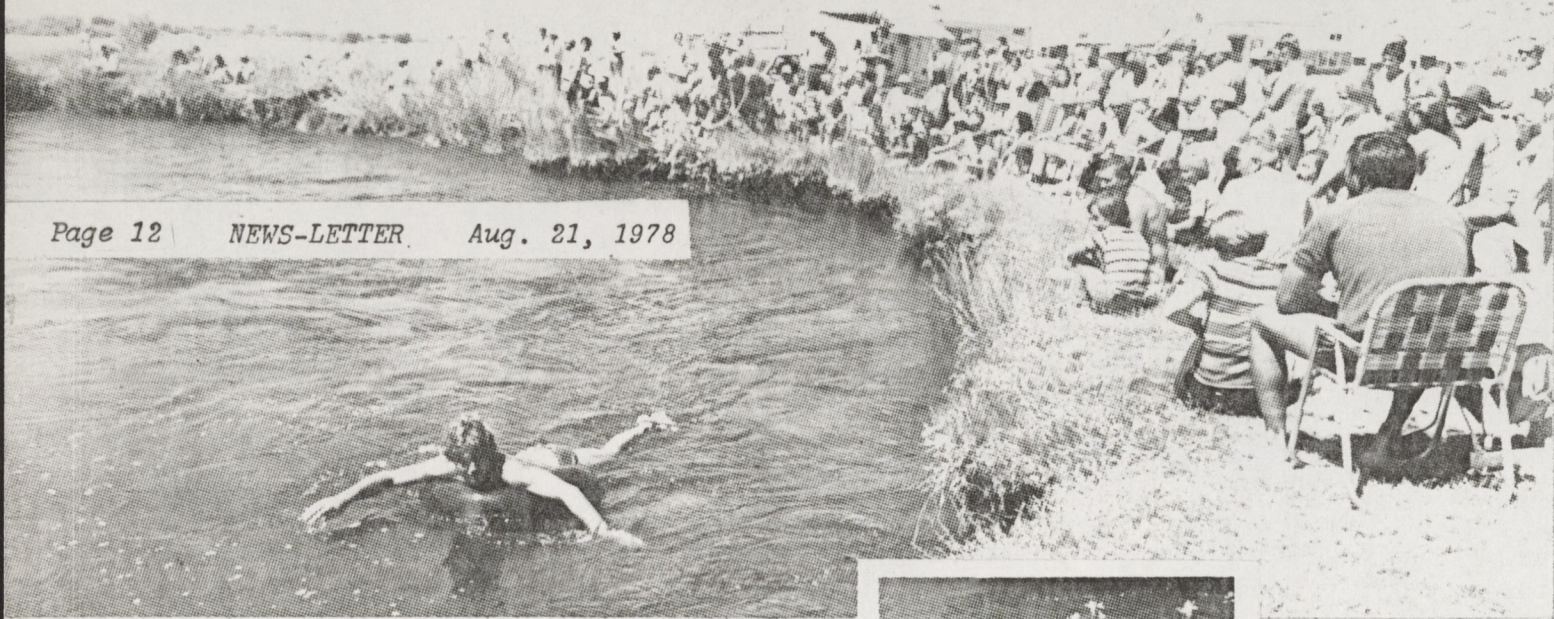
Meanwhile, Producer Nodella and his crew painstakingly carried a wrecked plane into the rocky peaks west of Independence and began work on their shooting script. But other difficulties awaited them on the rocky slopes of Onion Valley; Nodella injured a knee and had to go to Los Angeles for treatment. Meanwhile, down below, the motel owners said they "may be" open to further negotiations, if the story might improve their image.



THE LOGSDONS: Called the sheriff



COMONTOFSKI: "No vacancy"



Randy Jones of Lone Pine wins an inner-tube race.



Bishop's Big Splash: Huck Finn Day on The Owens

ANOTHER TOWN PROMOTION GIMMICK HAS THEM ROLLIN' ON (AND OFTEN IN) THE RIVER

Compensatory buss was provided for some other winners who overturned their canoe in the excitement of crossing the finish line. Mrs. Rice greets husband Terry and his nephew, Jeff, of Lancaster. More than 200 entrants floated and paddled nearly two miles in the 5th annual event.

BISHOP GROWTH, Continued

and the planning advisory committee find what appears to be at least 55 acres of common ground. Says O'Connor: "We are concerned about the unwillingness of government officials to slow down growth." It was O'Connor who, as an official of the League of Women Voters, had asked the planning commission and the county's supervisors for a building moratorium until the long-awaited Bishop Plan is completed. "Moratorium is a scare word, but they should take a close look at the large developments. It might be an advantage to the developers, too. We are terribly concerned; it will take us a year to get the plan down and the majority of the land will already be developed."

So far, the committee has narrowed to two its suggestions for the planning people: Proceed as things are, or continue with a long-term effort to trade land close to Bishop with land outside the planning area to keep development close to town.

Still another "scare word" for some is commercial or industrial park. On a special committee to study a proposal is Jim Lackey. He said there has been "some misunderstanding on the suggestion," and he emphasized that "We're not promoting a lot of growth, but a relocation of certain businesses like trucking and warehousing. Sometimes they're in residential areas, and although the zoning may be proper, both the residents and the businessmen would be happier if the businesses could relocate." His group is talking about "ten to fifteen" acres of land, but for now at least there is no such acreage privately owned and immediately available for such a "park" even if it were okayed and supported by the entire community. Lackey and others

will be checking with the Department of Water and Power for land possibilities. In that effort they are likely to find that DWP trades hard - usually for political positioning - in its deals in Inyo County.

The general lip-service agreement in Inyo county is that the area needs "light industry" to bolster a shaky economy. But still remaining in reality is a lot of smoke-stack and smog fear. Lackey hopes for "non-polluting" industry that might later fit into a larger plan. "We're not talking to anybody about light industry at this time," says Lackey. "But I do believe you grow or die. You don't have to have growth in numbers of people, but growth in dollars with increased production and sales."

Words soothing of course to Bishop's entrenched business community; it's a language they can believe in and applaud; it smacks of high volume and a continuing cheap labor pool.

Still undecided, or unaccepted by all is the matter of majority public thinking. The county has its count from the census, the property owners have theirs - and Lackey's group has little more than the draft of an idea dependant largely on the whim of a DWP that has of late shown little concern over the needs or requests of a county that it is doing battle with. Each group needs a solid political base in order to move ahead in any real or unopposed manner.

Meanwhile, as "urban" matters begin to crop up in the growing town, other problems are getting some angry attention. At least one of these must eventually deal with the situation that has been long-cursed but just as lengthily by-passed.

And "by-pass" may be the word, fearful
(BISHOP GROWTH Continued, P13)

BISHOP GROWTH, Continued

as it may be to Main Street business houses. The proprietors thereof are not serenely unmindful of the fact that many tourist-oriented western towns have literally died, their dark storefronts gathering dust on "closed" signs, thanks to the whims of highway departments that moved the traffic a mile or so away via a new freeway.

Face it, Bishop has an ongoing traffic jam that is putting dents in a lot of patience, if not in fact a lot of fenders. Last week, Caltrans made official recognition of the fact in a letter to Bishop's mayor, Bob Cambell. In effect, the letter said parking on Main street may have to go, based on Caltrans studies of traffic movement. "From an engineering standpoint," says Caltrans' Ken Deboy, "there's only one answer: Limit parking." He said, however, that it is not a "black-and-white decision," that a final estimate will be made sometime around the first of the new year.

In the letter, Caltrans District Director Robert Watkins was less hesitant to tell it like it is: "With approximately 16,000 vehicles using this narrow corridor on an average day...and with traffic increasing four to five percent a year, it is not a question of whether parking should be removed, but rather when we should take this action."

Such figures, albeit without Caltrans interference, are happy news to Highway 395 businessmen. For them, the slower the traffic, the better seen and purchased the wares in the front window. But to the driver (all save those wishing to park on Main Street), a few no parking signs would help them get through faster - to Mammoth maybe, or points beyond. Deboy says he is aware of the merchants' feelings, "but we must weigh cutting out accidents against a possible loss in revenues."

In their engineering-oriented outlook (as opposed to an economic-centered view), the highway people will probably get their wish or rattle swords over an alternative: by-pass the whole downtown complex and let traffic zoom by with scarcely a look at the town.

Another Caltrans spokesman, John Patzer, said the parking matter is inter-related with other issues. He said trucks and buses "are having trouble negotiating turns." Another problem: "The traffic signal at Line and Main is 22 years old and the system is obsolete." Caltrans may replace it in any case with left turn signals and pedestrian crossing lights.

Caltrans is not without justification in its now low-pressure suggestions. In the four-block area in question (Line to Elm), accidents are on the increase as congestion worsens. So slow is traffic, however, that injury cases are few and only fenders and nerves suffer.

With problems like growth and parking, crime and living space, economics and street conditions, it would appear that there is at least a moderate amount of good news: Bishop after all is beginning to enter the 20th century, and in doing so, may start responding realistically to matters long neglected.

Are the traffic and parking issues real? Is traffic that bad? Well, assuming that Sunday in Bishop is much like Sunday anywhere, with slow traffic and little movement, then things are bad indeed; the photo of parking and bumper-to-bumper cars that appears on Page 2 was made at a "low traffic" time - Sunday,

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

ion." Glidden bases his appeal on a legal technicality - the use of the word "illegal" in the state law. In ruling against Glidden, Judge Verne Summers had said a single vote cast (for Glidden) in the election had been "improperly" cast. If Glidden wins his appeal, it will not prevent Jacobson from running, and the two wind up where they started: their votes split in a race against Incumbent Wilma Muth. "If there are three on the ballot, I'm surprised Roger is interested in running," said Jacobson. A ruling on the appeal is expected within a week.

THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER will have to fight out its residential water metering case on home grounds. The superior court has denied a change of venue request by DWP in a case filed by Inyo County. However, Judge Verne Summers granted DWP one concession: An "impartial judge" will be imported to hear the case here, a judge named by the judicial council. If that takes too much time Summers may grant the change of venue. A hearing on the case - which could determine when if ever Inyo water users will have to tolerate metering - has been set for September 18.

THAT BOOK OF LOTTERY TICKETS making the rounds in the hands of State Senatorial Aspirant Bill Snyder (See Photo, P 1) is a new gimmick for raising campaign funds (new in Inyo County, at least). In a September 4 drawing, the winner of the raffle will win a \$500 scholarship, and Snyder will pocket about the same amount after costs of the raffle. And how is it working as a vote-getter? Bill says they're going fast, and the novelty of the idea just may be getting some votes. Few indeed are the politicians with creative ideas.

AND OTHER GOP CANDIDATES WERE MAKING THE INYO circuit last week. Assembly Candidate Phil Wyman stopped in for a visit at a Lone Pine Lions Club meeting to pose with Lions President Bill Sweat and three other visitors: touring Japanese students who, though unable



to vote for the candidate, dutifully accepted a traditional campaign handshake at Lone Pine Park. Wyman headquarters at Lancaster.

CALIFORNIA BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OFFICIAL Lou Boll was jolted into action on several county-involved leases with BLM when he paid a call on the supervisors' meeting. Among matters brought to his attention: the Olancho dumpsite; a TV translator site; the Tecopa Cemetery; and other issues. Boll got the message, but paper shuffling will take "a few months for approval," he told Supervisor Chairman Richard McDonald.



Coso's Thermal Riches

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1978

Beneath the Coso area's desert ranges lies a wealth of steam and hot springs - enough energy, say the experts, to provide power for a million people. But development of the source may find opposition from environmentalists and from Indian groups.



Tan Dodson

Neddeen Naylor, Ruth Brown say Indian tribes have no proof that development won't destroy springs.

Candidate Sogge at China Lake



A workshop hearing at Lone Pine last week gave supporters and opponents alike a look at the development potential at Coso Hot Springs area. Involved: energy development interests, the Naval Weapons Center - and Indian tribes who see in Coso a "sacred ground." NWC's Dodson moderated a hearing that went into air quality, geology, hydrology, archaeology. Some 30 years would be involved in any development. Congressional Candidate Bob Sogge visited NWC last week (bottom photo) and issued a statement advocating development of resources.

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JOHN HESTON • BENETT KESSLER
878-2582 & 878-2381

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